

# Partnerships That Work

Dallas Region

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## Carrasco's Successful Business Owner Graduates

The staff at David L. Carrasco Job Corps Center is extremely proud of all its graduates, and has many successful graduate stories to tell. The following is a sampling:

In 1978, Francisca "Letty" Serrano entered the David L. Carrasco Job Corps Center, then known as the El Paso Job Corps Center. One year later, she obtained her GED certificate and completed the Nurse Assistant Vocational Training course. However, she always wanted to study cosmetology and completed this course at Tri-State Cosmetology Institute. In 1996, Letty opened her own shop, Celina's Beauty Salon.

Letty's friend and Job Corps classmate, Juana Barba, followed her friend to cosmetology school. She now owns Campestre Hair Design.

In 1994, Ángela Mendoza, Lucy Garibay, and Ana Alvidrez completed the vocational cosmetology course now offered at the Carrasco Center. The three were hired at First Impression Hair and Nails, where they

remain today as owners of the business.

When Building and Apartment Maintenance student Joe Paredes (1983) completed his vocation, he was assigned to the VIVA Products Framing Co. for the Work Experience phase of his training. After being hired at the shop, he worked his way up to manager and eventually opened his own framing business. Today, Joe and his wife are the proud owners of the Art and Framing Gallery.

Graduate Armando Rubalcava (1983) owns a ceramic tile installation shop; Jesús "Chuy" Hernández (1982) is owner of Mission Air Conditioning Co., Inc.; and 1994 graduate Cesar Valdez bought Skylight Glass and Mirror Company.

Héctor Martínez graduated from the Center in 1985 as an Auto Mechanic. However, numbers were more to his liking and he went to work for H & R Block. He continued studying tax preparedness and bookkeeping, and established Martínez Bookkeeping and Tax Service, a full-service

**Congratulations to Talking Leaves** who were the overall Academic Olympic winners. See our next issue for exciting highlights and pictures!

accounting office, six years ago. His wife Verónica, who also graduated from the Carrasco Center a year later, works part-time in the office.

Another Auto Mechanics student, Mario Muñoz (1975), owns Mario's Auto Glass. His specialty is the installation of both new and used glass.

Food Service graduate Rodolfo Martinez married his Job Corps sweetheart Laura, and the two of them opened "La Milpa" Tortillería (tortilla factory). After 1997 graduate Sergio Jasso completed his culinary training at the Chicago Culinary Arts School, he returned to his native El Paso and opened the Grama Julia Mexican Food Restaurant in December 1999.

Deputy Director Manuel Gameros commented, "We are so proud of the graduates who go on to open their own businesses. We encourage our staff to support them whenever they can." ■

## Allan Kaufman... Match Graduations with Job Openings



Since September 11th, the job market has gone from bad to terrible. With profits slipping, cutting jobs becomes the quickest way of cutting costs, hence the massive layoffs. That means getting job one will be tougher for graduates and, if something goes wrong, getting job two will be still tougher.

What we can do is work more closely than ever with employers to nail down the job before we graduate a candidate – and, if the job isn't there yet, keep training the student until it is. By working with employers, we can schedule graduations to match job availability. With most, if not all, of our students in school-to-work programs it

shouldn't be too difficult to extend those programs for weeks or even months – long as we know there'll be real jobs at the end of them. We've been talking for years about keeping kids longer, now we've got our best reason yet.

What I'm suggesting takes organization and tight coordination between centers and Career Advisors, but it can be done. We don't want to graduate students into a jobless market.

I suspect the rate of unemployment will keep growing for at least the next two quarters. This will make both college and military service more attractive and we should encourage anyone we think can make either of these options to try them. Two other

options we should be considering are job-sharing and job-splitting. Maybe a combination of both.

By job-sharing I mean arranging for two people to share one job. This could be especially useful for parents without available childcare. By job-splitting I mean one person splits himself between two part-time jobs instead of one full-time job. An employer whose remaining staff is spread pretty thin might consider somebody to help out half time. Two of those make a full-time job.

I've been getting feedback that Career Advisors continue to have trouble keeping track of graduates once they leave the center. If they leave to take a specific job, this

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# Job Corps News

*Match Graduations with Job Openings/Allan Kaufman - Continued from Page 1*

shouldn't be a problem – unless you wait too long to make your first after-center contact. Do you routinely check that a graduate showed up for his job? Do you set up appointments to meet with graduates during their first week of work? These appointments should be made before they ever leave the center. Do you have a deal with the employer to call you the first day a graduate fails to report to work? Bear in mind, the

best relationships between CAs and graduates are made before the kids leave the center.

Some CAs also complain of not knowing what social service resources are available to them. Are we failing to give them the orientation and training they need? They also complain about feeling isolated, outside the loop. This is a center problem: don't leave those people hanging out there and don't make communication their responsi-

bility alone.

Two things we need to be thinking about right now. One, let's set up regular conference call teams for Career Advisors so they have someone else to talk to and don't feel so isolated. Two, let's make a determined effort to spread our nets wider for more interested employers. As jobs get scarcer, we're going to have to increase our options if we expect the same results. Let's do it. ■

## Center Tidbits...

### Tulsa Job Corps Center

On Monday, October 1, 2001, Tulsa JCC received the "Outstanding Volunteer" award from the Tulsa Project Impact Foundation for contributing over 100 hours of volunteer service. Tulsa Project Impact is a voluntary program that links private businesses, citizens, and government agencies in an effort to build a disaster resistance community. This is an initiative that challenges the nation

to undertake actions to protect families, businesses, and communities by reducing the effects of natural disasters.

### Gary Job Corps Center

The Gary Job Corps Blue Light Drill Team was part of the entertainment at the recent Red Ribbon 5K walk, 1K run on October 20th, as part of the Red Ribbon Week. Event organizers feel that this is an excellent way to

demonstrate drug-free lifestyles.

Gary JCC hosted the United Way of Hays County celebration for 'Make a Difference' Day on October 27th, by featuring local entertainment, children's art activities, free refreshments and prizes for families. The students at Gary JCC played a large part in the event by undertaking several projects for the celebration. ■

## Letters To The Editor...

*Dear Editor:*

*Do you know how we can find if a former enrollee has re-entered Job Corps. The mother says he has but "does not know which one" and he is "on leave" for a week because of grandma's illness. – Oklahoma*

**Response:** There are people in our office who have access to that information through SPAMIS, and I will ask them to pull this record up and get back to you. The student's information was located with full name and social security number.

*Dear Editor:*

*I had a call from a CA from New Orleans. One of our grads came to her office and was rifling through purses in the office. He had to be asked to leave the premises. He has been in a treatment program and his step mom*

*recommends that his real mother put him in another one. He was demanding the CA give him a ride, so they gave him bus fare and she is understandably afraid of working with him. Do you have any suggestions – should I record him as an "other" and make notes on 678? What do you suggest? – Oklahoma*

**Response:** I would advise the CA to call the police and file a complaint about the student rifling through purses – and make sure that the graduate is aware that he is no longer welcome in that office, but is welcome to receive telephonic and/or mail services. They have no obligation to drive him to a treatment program, but (purse incident aside) do have an obligation to attempt to help him get there. Giving him bus fare is a more-than-adequate response.

We do not have guidelines about how to

handle further services. Personally, I think we need a procedure for terminating services when something like this comes up, but since there is no such procedure, and the PRH requires face-to-face contact wherever possible, I would suggest the following: Note the incident in his case notes when you (or the CA) can get access to the interim CDSS tracking system (and 678). Note that as a result of this incident, the student is no longer welcome in the office, and the center will not require any staff to meet with him if they do not feel safe – but will attempt to provide services telephonically. Then keep subsequent records of attempts to reach him telephonically or via mail, and enter those into the case notes.

As for counting him as "other" I am not quite sure what you mean. ■

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# Job Corps News



## Job Corps promotes many success stories of students

By Mitch Meador/Staff Writer  
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*The Lawton Constitution*

Indiahoma- You can paper the walls with tales of success from Treasure Lake Job Corps Center, as Katherine Hunt [Transition Coordinator for Treasure Lake JCC] is proving on the wall outside her office.

It's part of her new campaign to "Celebrate Success."

One such story is that of Natasha Freeri of Lawton, whose picture ran in the April 15, 2000, edition of the *Lawton Constitution*. She was then preparing five to seven vaults a day at Wilbert Vault Co. in south Lawton as part of Treasure Lake Job Corps Center's School to Work Program.

She graduated from the plastering trade on May 6, 2000, and is now the manager at Wilbert Vault Co. in Oklahoma City.

Larry Reed Jr. and Armanda Fabela are both employed by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service now. And Timothy Sachs, who graduated from the electrical wiring

program this year, is doing such a good job for Electrical Line Services of Oklahoma City that the center called to ask if Job Corps had any more.

Hunt serves as the center's career transition coordinator, a title that reflects a new focus in the Job Corps program.

It's called the Career Development Service System (CDSS). Starting from outreach and admissions, it follows the students through the stages of career preparation, career development and career transition.

"It's a 'whatever it takes' approach. We're going to try to individualize the approach to meet the student's needs," Hunt said.

If that means getting "outside the box" to make sure a trainee is ready to handle a career, so be it. The objective is to produce students who come out employable at the end of the program.

"CDSS is not just another new Job Corps initiative. It is Job Corps," said Acting Center Director Rose Mary Kern.

"Computer support for the program is still being developed, but most of the rest of

CDSS is in place," Hunt said.

"All grads have a career advisor assigned to them for a year to assist and advise them in the local community," she said.

That assistance and advice may be about career, housing, transportation or other issues the graduate may have.

In Lawton, Beverly Turner is a career advisor at the Association of South Central Oklahoma Governments' office in the Oklahoma Employment Security Commission building. She has taken graduates to Oklahoma City to get cars, driven them to job interviews and helped them make contracts for housing and childcare.

Graduates also are being taught to look for a career, not a job – to be in it for the long haul, Hunt explained.

Long-term follow-up is another part of the approach. Job Corps will check on its graduates after six months and again after one year to see if they are employed and their wages are up to expectations – and to see if the staff is doing its job so that the students achieve success. ■

## Talking Leaves Job Corps and Employee Partner of the Month Muskogee V.A. Medical Center

For the last two years the V.A. Medical Center has been working with Talking Leaves students from six of our vocations. The V.A. is helping train our Medical Office, Business Office, Health Occupations, Culinary Arts, Material Handlers and recently our Pharmacy Tech students. These students were recently honored at an awards assembly for hours worked at the V.A. through voluntary services. There were 90 students honored for donating almost 11,000 hours to serve veterans. The students, who volunteer at the medical center and its outpatient clinic in Tulsa, were recognized at a ceremony Aug. 2nd with awards and a pizza party. Judy Thompson voluntary chief stated, "These wonderful

young people are the future of volunteering in the V.A. and their home communities. Their dedication to the veterans who have sacrificed so much for the freedom we enjoy is admirable." Among those honored were: Melanie Owl for 750 hours of service, Edward Denson with 550 hours, Bobbie Phillips and Charles Waddle with 375 hours, 21 students with 175 hours and numerous other students with 90 or more hours.

The V.A. Medical Center also recently donated 30 computers, monitors and keyboards as well as printers to Talking Leaves Job Corps for the students to use in dormitory study rooms and in some of the honor dorm rooms. Some of the computers were placed in classrooms for training purposes.

Talking Leaves students can use the CD-Rom technology for self-instruction for GED and other basic academic courses after the duty day ends. They can also use the computers to update resumes and their Personal Career Development Plans and enhance their Information Technology Skills. Rebel Abbott of the V.A. Material Management area said they should have more computers to donate within the next month. It is a pleasure knowing they could help the students with building their futures Mr. Abbott said. We are appreciative of the Veterans Medical Center-Talking Leaves partnership. "Hats Off" to Veterans. Karl Husmann, Center Director. ■



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## Dallas Region

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## Regional Calendar...

### November 2001

The Regional Managers' Meeting is scheduled in Dallas from November 28th – 30th at the Crown Plaza Hotel. CDs, OA coordinators, NTCs, support contractors, corporate and agency folks are all invited. The Regional Office is also asking centers to bring their BCL and the Chairperson of their community (not industry) Advisory

Council, at least for the first day of the meeting. There will be a training session on Issue Advocacy that they will be a part of on Wednesday. If you have any further questions regarding this meeting, please be sure to contact Mary Easley @ [MEASLEY@doleta](mailto:MEASLEY@doleta) or phone her @ (214) 767-4775. ■

## Update...

### National CDSS Training

The National and Regional Offices of Job Corps coordinated the National CDSS Training in August that combined training with the Dallas and Denver Regions of Job Corps. Attendees were broken up into interactive work groups and given case studies of typical Job Corps applicants. With only minimal information, the groups were asked to decide on each "student's" future within CDSS and the Job

Corps program. The case studies were followed all the way from the OA procedures to the 12-month follow-up services that would be provided for each graduate. This training exercise also incorporated and worked with the new PRH. Now, it is our job – the attendees of this training – to take what we learned from this training and spread the knowledge with our co-workers. ■

## AskArla...

*Please allow me start off by thanking the 40 individuals who attended the Focus Group Meeting in San Antonio, Texas, a few weeks ago. Your input is invaluable to the continued efforts of the Cutting Edge Communications staff (Molly Ramirez and Jack Jones) to continue to provide you with useful training.*

Dear Arla,

Sometime ago you mentioned that the employer pieces were being discontinued to introduce a new piece. Most pieces have been discontinued, but I've yet to hear of you introducing any new materials. How soon will new material be available?

A.W. – Texas

Dear A.W.,

While I realize that it's been some time since we reported the discontinuations to you, we have created an Employer Kit to be used by BCLs. At this time we don't have a piece for Career Advisors or OA staff. Rest assured that I'll keep you posted of any changes!

Dear Arla,

My co-worker recently attended the focus group meeting in San Antonio, and couldn't stop raving about the "Who Moved My Cheese" presentation and video. Can we borrow your video for our own on-center presentation? And can we get a supply of the "Who Moved My Cheese" books to hand out?

D.V. – Arkansas

Dear D.V.,

I'm glad that the presentation was such a hit! I regret to tell you that we don't have a supply of books to offer you. We only ordered enough books to give to each of the 40 attendees, but you can order them through Amazon.com – this is the where I found them the cheapest. As for the video, we ordered that through [www.WhoMovedMyCheese.com](http://www.WhoMovedMyCheese.com) and since we still have plans to use it for further training we cannot loan it to you and copyright laws prevent us from dubbing it. Sorry!

Please send all inquiries, information, and suggestions to:

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